

COUNCIL

UPDATE

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ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

OCTOBER 1985

Tomorrow's Woman: Beyond the Rainbow

Shelly Peterson, wife of Liberal leader David Peterson, and well-known actress, will kick off *Tomorrow's Woman: Beyond the Rainbow*, a youth conference being held in Toronto October 18-20. Ms. Peterson will address the students at an evening reception being held in their honour at City Hall.

Brainchild of Sandra Kerr, Vice-President of the Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, and enthusiastically approved by Council members, the conference celebrates International Youth Year. During these three days, over 500 grade 11

female students from across Ontario will gather at a Toronto high school to hear speakers, attend workshops and exchange ideas on issues of interest to them. Some of the workshops are: When I Grow Up, World of Work, Media and Me, and How will I pay my Chargex.

Last spring, Council approached all Ontario school boards as well as private schools to ask them to send students to the conference. We have had an excellent response with 95% of those contacted sending delegates. A planning committee and youth advisory committee helped to shape the

nature of the conference, which will bring some young women to Toronto for the first time.

Ian Scott, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues will speak to the students Saturday evening, just before the rock concert sponsored by Q107 radio station. On Sunday, the students will view the film *Speaking Our Peace* and Senator Anne Cools will close the conference at noon.

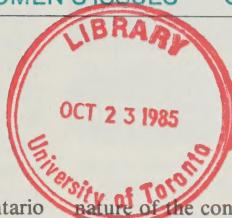
Other co-sponsors of the conference are: Imperial Life, McDonald's, Bonne Bell, Xerox, Federation of Women Teachers of Ontario, Coke, Levis and the City of Toronto. For further information call Lisa Flannery Conference Co-ordinator at 965-5824.



Shelly Peterson kicks off *Tomorrow's Woman: Beyond The Rainbow*, a youth conference presented by Council October 18-20 in Toronto.



Senator Ann Cools will close the conference at noon on Sunday, October 20.



Quote of the year

"...and I look forward to having a playpen in the office. I think many working mothers do that..."
Mila Mulroney

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New Council Members

In June, two new members were appointed to Council. **Judith Hendin** is a lawyer who lives in Nepean, Ontario and has a special interest in education issues. A former teacher, she has spoken on various topics ranging from the Family Law Reform Act, to Rights and the Child and she has instructed sessions on Professional Development for Ottawa Separate School Board and Carleton Public School Board in both primary and high school levels. Her other areas of interest and involvement include rural women's issues and family law. **Eva Marszewski** is a Toronto lawyer in private practice with special emphasis on civil litigation as well as family, municipal and labour law. She has been involved for five years in the direction of several land development projects and was a participant in the Federal Treasury Board Secretariat consultation on affirmative action on behalf of the Canadian Association of Women Executives. In August, she was delighted to announce the birth of her first child, a girl. Judith and Eva take the place of two Council members whose tenure was completed. **Bill Kelloway** served six years on Council, and **Eleanor Ryan** served five. We grate-

fully acknowledge all the hard work and dedication that they put in as Council members representing the women of Ontario.

Staff Changes

At the end of the summer, **Lindsay Dubois**, Council's research assistant bid us all adieu and went off to New York, where she enters her first year of graduate studies in anthropology at the New School of Social Research. She just can't stay away, however, and she'll be back in October to help at our upcoming Youth Conference.

While the office waved goodby to Lindsay, we welcomed our new secretary **Corrine Cowles**. Corrine comes to us from *The Hamilton Spectator* where she was secretary to the Promotion and Public Relations Manager. We're delighted to have Corrine at Council office and we know her newspaper background will be an asset! Corrine replaces **Daphne Hay** who worked in the office during the summer and is now in her first year at U of T with a long-term goal of obtaining a law degree.

President's Column

October 18 is the anniversary of my first year as your Council President — a busy year, but an enormously rewarding one. Perhaps the most interesting part of my responsibilities has been meeting many of you to discuss ways of solving the issues we're all concerned about — issues that are not just women's issues, but ones affecting everyone in Ontario. Not surprisingly, I've discovered our concerns, for the most part, are shared around the province, but northern Ontario has the added dimension of isolation. An isolation I thought I understood, but had no real comprehension of until I started travelling to communities I had not been previously fortunate in visiting. You've welcomed me with warmth, understanding, gallons of coffee, and fascinating discussions. We've started strategizing at 6:30 a.m. on the way in from the airport; we've regretfully ended dialogues at 3 a.m., only because I had a flight at 7 a.m.

Next month, Sudbury, North Bay, Espanola, Manitoulin Island, Fort Francis, Kitchener, Dryden, Thunder Bay, Kenora, Kingston, Stratford, Windsor and Forest are all in my day-timer so far.

Before my three-year term is up in '87, I hope to have visited every community in Ontario and met all of you.

Sam Ion



"What do you mean she fell down and open personhole?"

Council News

Last March, the Ontario Advisory Council held a health conference in Toronto. The proceedings from the **Women and Health** conference are now available at Council office. In addition, a health brief has been submitted to the Minister of Health, the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues and other relevant ministries. Copies of the proceedings and brief are available in Council's office.

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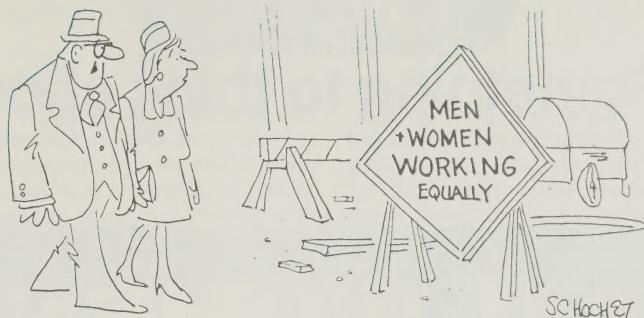
The Ontario Advisory Council's **11th Annual Report** is also available in limited supply at Council office.

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If you have any historic materials pertaining to the women's movement, and you're not quite sure what to do with them, you might consider submitting them to Council for preservation and storage in our **library**. And speaking of our library, our new premises include a wonderful large space for a library. Unfortunately, the work involved in properly cataloguing materials is a long slow process, and so our library is not yet available for public use. We hope to have the material assembled within the next few months. Watch this space for further information.

Education Wife Assault

Education Wife Assault is a non-profit community organization providing education on wife abuse. They have a brochure available listing the sources of help, information and shelters for assaulted women throughout Ontario plus an extensive publications list. For further information, contact Education Wife Assault, 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto, M5S 1X7, (416) 968-3422.



"It looks like the last frontier is conquered."

Municipal Election Guide:

We highlighted the issues in the provincial election with *A Women's Guide to the 1985 Ontario Election* and now we're ready to tackle the municipal elections. Council has prepared a *Municipal Election Guide* which is being mailed to our French and English mailing list. This pamphlet identifies issues regarding school boards and municipalities. The issues are written in question form and can be used as a guide to determine where your local candidates stand on issues important to women. And sadly, in municipal elections, only half of those eligible

to vote do so. And yet municipal governments spend our tax dollars to make decisions affecting the quality of our life on a day-to-day basis. On November 12, vote for the candidate of your choice. Otherwise, your views won't be heard!

The Municipal Election Guide is available by either phoning 416-965-8232 or writing us at the following address: Ontario Advisory Council on Women's Issues, 800 Bay Street, 5th floor, Toronto, M7A 1N3. You may also personally pick up your guide by coming to the office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Regional Consultations: St. Catharines

In May, Council held a two-day consultation with the various women's groups in St. Catharines. Council members visited high schools where they conducted workshops with the students on women's issues. Students were very interested in what Council members had to say, and many members reported that some very lively debates took place in the various classrooms! Other members visited local women's centres. The following day, various groups made presentations to Council, among them The

Lincoln Women Teachers' Association, University Women's Club of St. Catharines, St. Catharines Local Council of Women, and Women in Niagara.

The next regional consultation will be held in Windsor November 22 and 23. Windsor Council member Sandra Manzig is currently working on the agenda and once again, women's groups from Windsor region will be addressing Council on issues of concern to women in this area.

Meeting with the Treasurer

During the summer, the Honourable Robert Nixon, Treasurer of Ontario, requested Council bring together a committee representing various women's groups. He was interested in hearing the views of these groups prior to formulating the provincial budget. Accordingly, on September 5th, an ad-hoc committee consisting of representatives from 12 women's groups met with the Treasurer to offer him recommendations on priority issues they believe must be considered in the Liberal's first provincial budget.

Minister interested in Childcare issue

While the Minister expressed interest in all the issues raised by the ad-hoc committee, he paid particular attention to the section on childcare. Mr. Nixon expressed surprise at the low salaries childcare workers earn (average annual salary \$14,000). He announced the Queen's Park Childcare Centre had been given a \$400,000 grant and vowed to visit the centre when it opens in January. When questioned about the generous size of the grant, he explained the formula for arriving at this figure could be used by any corporation interested in setting up a childcare centre. In general, Mr. Nixon had many questions and comments regarding the childcare issue.

New Pension legislation expected

The pensions issue was also discussed. The committee would like to see new laws introduced to ensure all Ontario women receive adequate pensions. The committee presented three recommendations, one of which called for the expansion and improvement of the Canada Pension Plan in the private sector such as inflation protection, earlier vesting and coverage of part-time employees. The Minister informed the committee new pension legislation was expected to be introduced later this fall. He surprised the

committee by expressing a personal belief that pensions ought to be indexed, but of course, could not promise legislation would reflect this.

Equal value

Equal value was also discussed with the committee recommending increased funding for the implementation and enforcement of equal pay for work of equal value in both the public and private sectors. The

Minister replied that the Government plans to introduce a bill dealing with the civil service and said the proposed Green Paper would address the broader public sector.

The Legislature opens October 15, and it is expected a budget will be handed down a short time later. Only then will we see whether the Government has succeeded in turning theoretical statements into hard legislation.

The Green Paper is Coming The Green Paper is Coming !!!

Soon after the House sits on October 15th, the Government will introduce a Green Paper on Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value. Women have been waiting a long time for legislated equal value, and now, at last, it appears the Government is taking a slow step forward!

We know the Government will hold consultations on the Green Paper, but the format has not yet been publicized. The Equal Pay Coalition has offered to act as a clearinghouse for briefs being submitted by groups to the Government on the Green Paper.

Highlights of the Green Paper (which incidentally is a working paper, and does not represent legislation) almost certainly will be published in the newspapers across the province. Once it has been released to the press, the Green Paper will be available to groups for study. To obtain your copy, contact the Attorney General's office, 18th floor, 18 King St. East, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1C5 (416) 965-1664 or you could try the Ontario Government Book store, 880 Bay St., Toronto, (416) 965-2054.

We hope all women's groups will grab this opportunity to have input on the equal pay for equal value issue. If you wish to participate, send your brief or your response to the

Equal Pay Coalition, 43 Madison Ave., Toronto, M5R 2S2. This will help women's groups know what each of us is saying and perhaps together, finally, we can bring equality to the workplace!

Intercede Needs Your Help

Intercede needs your help to bring domestic workers out of the dark ages. They are circulating an open letter to the Minister of Labour William Wry expressing alarm about the lack of protection for live-in domestic workers under Ontario labour laws. They are pressing for the Minister of Labour to immediately include live-in domestics under the hours of work and overtime provisions of the Employment Standards Act and to recognize domestic workers' right to unionize. If you would like to sign the petition, or for further information, call Intercede, 58 Cecil Street, Toronto (416) 977-4432.

The Council is an advisory body to the Ontario Government on all matters pertaining to women. Established at armslength from the Government, it is in the unique position of being the *ONLY* official advisory body on women's issues. This means that the Government has made a commitment to listen to its views and recommendations, and this unique relationship allows the Council to effectively challenge Government's direction and policies.

There are 16 members, including a President, all of whom are appointed by Cabinet on a part-time basis for three-year terms. Members come from around the Province, and for the most part, do not represent organizations or groups.

The Council attempts to bring a balance of views of women from across the Province to the attention of the Government. Its unique relationship with the Government gives it a direct channel to the ears of the decision-makers of Ontario.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sam Ion, President, Toronto
Ed Arundell, Toronto

Sarah Band, Toronto

Judith Hendin, Nepean

Kay Howland, Dunrobin

Sandra Kerr, Oakville

Dorothy Kirby-Rawn, Etobicoke

Annabelle Logan, London

Sandra Manzig, Windsor

Diane Marleau, Sudbury

Eva Marszewski, Toronto

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Toronto

Maria Seymour, Kenora

Barbara Stone, St. Catharines

Kay Tye, Burlington

Glenna Carr, *ex officio*, Toronto

SPEAKERS: Members of Council are available for speaking engagements. Please write to Council with details of your meeting.

COUNCIL STAFF

Bridget Vianna, Executive Officer
Lydia Oleksyn, Administrative
Assistant
Corinne Cowles, Secretary

COUNCIL ADDRESS

5TH FLOOR, 880 BAY ST.,
TORONTO, ONTARIO M7A 1N3
(416) 965-5824.

Choosing Tomorrow's Trustee, is an election action kit prepared by the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario. It contains background resource information on how to run a campaign, and identifies general issues. Available from the FWTAO, 1250 Bay St., Toronto M5R 2B8.



Public Education for Equality, a lecture given by Rosemary Brown, a member of the B.C. legislature, takes place Wednesday, October 23, 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, New City Hall, Toronto. Free



Public Education: Should We Have Any?, is the name of the address to be given by feminist author and poet *Margaret Atwood*, October 29, 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), Jarvis Collegiate, 459 Jarvis St., Toronto. Free.



International Conference on the Status of Girls, is a conference being presented in Montreal by La Fondation Marie-Vincent and the University of Montreal, October 29, 30, and 31, at the Montreal Sheraton Centre. Cost is \$260. which includes access to all lectures, opening and closing receptions and banquet. For further information, contact: International Conference on the Status of Girls, 6161 St. Denis Street, Suite 4.06, Montreal, Quebec. H2S 2R5, (514) 274-3581.



Women's Counselling Referral Education Centre, celebrates its 10th anniversary. You are invited for two days and evenings of workshops, panel discussions, Hogie Wyckoff, Nightwood Theatre performance, buffet, dance and more. November 8 and 9. For further information, contact WREC, 525 Bloor St. West, Toronto, M5S 1Y4, 534-7501, Gwen Roe.

Challenging Our Images: The Politics of Pornography and Prostitution, is a conference sponsored by the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, November 22-24, 252 Bloor St. W. There will be speakers, workshops, films, creative performances, childcare, interpretation provided for the hearing-impaired and it is wheelchair accessible. \$35, \$20 for students and unemployed. For further information, please call Paula Roachman or Diane Roberts at 978-3032.



DES, the wonder drug you should wonder about if you were born between 1941 and 1971. This drug has been linked with medical problems in the children of women who took it. **DES Action: Toronto** is a non-profit group involved in outreach and education programs on the effects of the drug. For further information, contact DES Action: Toronto, 60 Grosvenor St., Room 612, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1B6, (416) 968-2844.



Technology Impact Research Fund, is a development of the Government of Canada to ensure Canadians receive the greatest economic and social benefits possible from the development of technical and scientific knowledge. Labour Canada will accept applications for research funds from groups or organizations capable of conducting a research project within the terms of this program. The review committee meets again in the spring of 1986, and the deadline for applications is February 28, 1986. For further information, contact the Program Co-ordinator, Labour Canada, Technology Impact Research Fund, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0J2 (819) 997-5470.

Material for Potpourri will be welcomed, however, publication will depend on space and be at the discretion of the publisher.

Something to think about . . .

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ALL WOMEN WORK

57% work for pay

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Why are the majority of women in low-paying, under-valued jobs?

Why are traditional "women's" jobs low-paying and under-valued?

Why are women discouraged from seeking challenging and high paying jobs?

Why are so few women in skilled trades?

Why are more women unemployed than men?

Why are less than 20% of working women in unions?

Why are women having a difficult time finding childcare?

Why are domestic workers not protected by existing employment legislation?

Why are part-time workers not receiving pensions?

Why are women not getting adequate pensions?

Why are women earning 63% of men's wages?

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WHY?